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AUTHOR	Hanson, Jill, Ed.
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ABSTRACT

This newsletter presents information about the status of the Standardization of Postsecondary Education Electronic Data Exchange/Exchange of Permanent Records Electronically for Students and Schools (SPEEDE/ExPRESS), a system developed for the electronic exchange of student academic records. The awarding of the new SPEEDE/ExPRESS contract, the Statistical Networking Applications Project (SNAP) to Sierra Systems Consultants, Inc., is announced in this issue. Sierra, in partnership with Concurrent Technologies Corporation, will provide management and staff support for this project from October 1, 1996 though September 30, 2001, at which time the project will become self-supporting. The SNAP initiative is focused on the development, implementation, and support of specific standard electronic formats to be used to convey administrative educational information between educational entities. This issue also discusses the introduction of the SPEEDE/ExPRESS homepage, which will provide the educational community with information about the project and links to other resources. Other brief reports document progress made in implementing SPEEDE/ExPRESS in Ontario (Canada) and various states, including Iowa, Nevada, Alaska, Texas, California, and Illinois. The development of new guidelines for protecting the privacy of student records is also noted. (SLD)

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ED 418 093

SPEEDE/*ExPRESS* NEWSLETTER

Volume V, Number 1 March 1997

NCES Announces the Statistical Networking Applications Project

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SPEEDE/ExPRESS Newsletter

Standardization of Postsecondary Education Electronic Data Exchange / Exchange of Permanent Records Electronically for Students and Schools

Volume V, Number 1 March 1997

NCES Announces the Statistical Networking Applications Project

Follow-on Project to SPEEDE/ ExPRESS Awarded to Sierra Systems Consultants, Inc.

The National Center for Education Statistics has awarded the new SPEEDE/ ExPRESS contract, the Statistical Networking Applications Project (SNAP), to Sierra Systems Consultants, Inc. Sierra, in partnership with Concurrent Technologies Corporation (CTC), will be providing management and staff support for this endeavor from October 1, 1996 through September 30, 2001 at which time the project is to become self supporting.

The SNAP initiative is focused upon the development, implementation, and support of specific standard electronic formats to be used for conveying administrative educational information between educational entities. The SPEEDE/ExPRESS standards supported are illustrated in the table to the right.

Records	Purpose
Student Educational Record	Convey student records data between educational entities.
Request for Student Educational Record	Enables educational institutions to initiate an automated request for student record.
Student Educational Record Acknowledgment	Automates the acknowledgment of receipt of a student record authenticating the transmission
Response to Request for Student Educational Record	Automates the response to a Request for Student Educational Record.
Personnel Information (under development)	Conveys Personnel Record information between educational entities.
Educational Institutional Record (under development)	Conveys characteristics of an educational institution between educational entities.
Statistical Government Information	Conveys survey responses for NCES's IPEDS, CCD, & Library Statistical Surveys in ANSI ASC X12 compliant record formats.

The SNAP Project staff includes individuals who have extensive experience with electronic commerce. Jill Hanson, former Chair of the ExPRESS Committee, has been appointed as Project Director. Elsa Leslie will perform the duties of EDI Specialist using skills and knowledge she has gained from the Florida Information Resource Network and SPEEDE/ ExPRESS committee involvement. Barry Lerner, Manager of Program Integration at CTC has the responsibilities of Dissemination Manager. Sarah Elkins of Sierra is the Administrative Assistant for the project.

Services to be provided include promotion, development, maintenance, and support of the standards.

In the area of standards promotion, the SNAP team will work with professional associations and educational entities in spreading the word about SPEEDE/ ExPRESS. Development and maintenance activities will focus upon work with the ANSI ASC X12 Committee to ensure the standards meet with the needs of the education community at-large. The SNAP support program will provide training and technical support to the users of the standards.

Both Sierra Systems Consultants, Inc and Concurrent Technologies Corporation have WWW Sites that contain more information about each company. Access URL: http://www.sierrasys.com/ to get to Sierra and URL: http://www.ctc.com/ for Concurrent Technologies Corporation.

For more information on the SNAP Project, contact the Project Director, Jill Hanson at (206) 339-1184 or e-mail jhanson@sierrasys.com.

SPEEDE/ExPRESS Help Desk

The SNAP Team has established a SPEEDE/ExPRESS Help Desk to provide support to the SPEEDE/ExPRESS User Community. The purpose of this service is to provide informational and technical assistance from a single point of contact . Given the majority of problems users encounter are due to a lack of knowledge, the Help Desk will point users in the right direction to help themselves.

If you are in need of assistance, please don't hesitate to call

1-800-644-SPEX

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Introducing the NCES SPEEDE/ExPRESS Homepage

The SPEEDE/ExPRESS Homepage will be moving to the National Center for Education Statistic's WWW Site located under the U.S. Department of Education's Home Page. The purpose of the home page will be to provide the educational community with information about the project as well as provide links to other information resources that would be of benefit to them. Future enhancements will include a Participant Directory, Request for Data Maintenance data base, and Requests for Information.

The Participant Directory will contain trading partner profile information about institutions that are enabled to exchange SPEEDE/ExPRESS transaction sets. Much like a telephone directory, it will provide educational institutions with institutional names, contact information, and other characteristics that identify how they are communicating records.

The Request for Data Maintenance Data Base will provide the user community with the ability to submit changes to any of the transaction sets that fall under the umbrella of SPEEDE/ExPRESS. To make this process easy and efficient for everyone, the requests will be reviewed immediately by staff who will provide all concerned with the status of the request. Also to be included will be a chat facility that will allow users to comment about the requested change.

Electronic Commerce in Ontario

For more than 25 years, the Ontario Universities have made use of a common form for application for admission. This form has been processed through a centralized admissions clearing house and the data are forwarded to the universities via a proprietary form of EDI through the Internet.

The Ontario Universities Application Centre (OUAC) has now undertaken to coordinate the sending and receiving of SPEEDE transcripts for those students who have studied at one Ontario university and are applying for an undergraduate or professional program at another Ontario university.

At the moment 2 of the 18 Ontario Universities are completely EDI ready. Another 6 can send or receive EDI. It is anticipated that by the Summer of 1997 the number completely EDI ready will increase to 6, with another 6 being able to send only or receive only.

The OUAC maintains a Web site for participants in the project. (http://ouacinfo.ouac.on.ca/ouets.htm) Each participating university also maintains a Web site with their transcript legend and their TS130 mapping.

For more information, contact Ron Scriver (scriverr@netserv.ouac.on.ca) at the Ontario Universities Application Centre.

Electronic Access System for Iowa Education Records

Project EASIER Moves Iowa Schools Forward with EDI

Educational institutions and agencies in Iowa are making rapid advances in the implementation of EDI in order to better serve their students. Through the implementation of Project EASIER, six school districts are sending student records data using EDI. In the Spring, fourteen additional districts will join the effort.

Project EASIER has established the following charter to provide all participants with a common focus:

Mission: To reduce data burden and to encourage better decision making by establishing and maintaining a cost effective method of accessing and transferring accurate and timely educational information among school districts, area education agencies, post-secondary institutions, and the Iowa Department of Education.

Underlying Principles:

- Commitment toward reduction of paper-based state reporting.
- Build on existing technologies available to the schools.
- Commitment toward elimination of paper-based college transcripts.
- Voluntary adoption of a common basis for facilitating meaningful information exchange.
- Education personnel included in the planning and deployment of the project.

Kudos to the Iowa Department of Education for demonstrating great educational leadership in this endeavor. For more information on Project EASIER, check out the EASIER Home Page at: www.state.ia.us/educate/depteduc/fis/edi/easier.html or contact Steve Boal at the Iowa Department of Education sboal@max.state.ia.us.

NCES Surveys Go EDI

The U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) is in the process of developing EDI formats for their universe data collections in K-12, post-secondary, and library surveys. Using the existing ANSI ASCX12 Transaction Set 152, Statistical Government Information, developed by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, NCES, through their contractor Sierra Systems, will provide Implementation Guides for their K-12 Common Core of Data (CCD) survey, their post-secondary data collection IPEDS, and their Public Library Survey.

NCES collects information on every public school, district and state agency in CCD relating to both fiscal and non-fiscal information. In IPEDS the data collected about each post-secondary institution includes enrollment, completions, staff, finance, and institutional characteristics information. The Public Library survey collects information from all 9,000 public libraries across the country.

By providing an additional method of transmitting data via EDI, NCES hopes to promote greater standardization and ease of reporting. This will enable those educational entities who are interested in EDI to have more flexibility in conducting their business functions.

EDI Training Opportunities

Having information available where and when you need it is essential to the effectiveness of any educational institution wanting to transfer data in today's electronic environment. As with anything new, it is critical that a knowledge base be developed even before formulating plans to develop solutions.

Fortunately, because of the Electronic Commerce Resource Center program developed by Concurrent Technologies Corporation for the Department of Defense, the wheel does not have to be re-invented for education to take advantage of such learning opportunities.

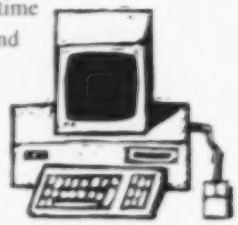
Currently there are sixteen ECRC centers located throughout the United States. These centers offer education services at little or no cost in order to provide organizations with the awareness, knowledge, and skills they need to take advantage of the benefits of electronic commerce.

Several four-hour orientation courses are available which serve as an introduction to basic EDI including: EDI Orientation, Business Opportunities with the DOD through EDI, and Issues in EDI Implementation.

Course offerings can also be customized for specific audiences if desired. Specific schedules and details of course offerings at the regional ECRC centers may be obtained by accessing the ECRC home page address which links to the regional pages. The ECRC home page address is http://www.ecrc.ctc.com.

Nevada's SMART To Use EDI

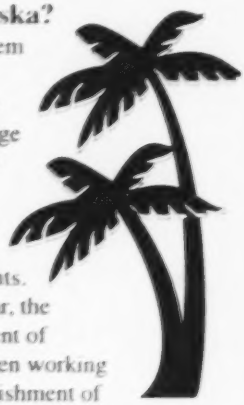
As we approach the end of this century, providing high-quality, on-time services, tools, and strategies that will support school reform requires that we increasingly draw upon technology to address complex educational issues. The collaborative efforts of Nevada's school districts and the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) in developing the Statewide Management of Automated Record Transfer (SMART) System is evidence of both Nevada's recognition of this need, and determination to address it. The Department has enlisted the services of WestEd and its integration team to bring to bear the best thinking, planning, and production of tools available nationally to address the information needs of school reform.



Phase I of the SMART Project is underway and will be completed by July of 1997. During this time, NDE and selected District pilots will work with the integration team to electronically exchange data using SPEEDE/ExPRESS standards and a customized version of WestEd's translation software ExPRESS Cal. This will provide both local and state education agencies with an efficient means of exchanging critical academic information in order to improve services to students.

Nevada's students, parents, educators and schools will benefit through improved quality of educational information, better information at sustainable costs, streamlined state and federal reporting, and acquisition of systems infrastructure by pilot districts. To keep abreast of what's happening in Nevada, access the SMART project's WWW site at: http://www.fwl.org/smart. For additional information, contact Denise Quon, SMART Project Director at dquon@nsn.scs.unr.edu.

OASIS in Alaska?



Alaska may seem remote to most, however they are on the leading edge when it comes to leveraging network technology to improve services to students. Over the past year, the Alaska Department of Education has been working toward the establishment of a system they are calling the On-line Alaska School Information System (OASIS).

The project's antecedents actually began in 1987 with the establishment of the Office of Data Management within the Alaska Department of Education. The responsibilities of this office include the collection, analysis and publication of student and education data.

The mission of OASIS is to establish and maintain a cost effective, secure method of accessing and transferring school and critical student-level information between educatonal entities in need of this information to better serve students. It was determined that using SPEEDE/ExPRESS EDI standards to safely transfer this information would be key in satisfying these requirements.

Phase I of the OASIS Project is underway and will be completed during the Spring of 1998. During this time, AKDOE and District pilots will work with the integration team to install computer-based systems and procedures to enable effective student record management at both the local and state levels.

For more information, please contact: Brenda O'Donnell, e-mail:bodonnel@educ.state.ak.us, Phone: (907) 465-8651 http://www.educ.state.ak.us/OASIS/.

SPEEDE/ExPRESS Newsletter

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Jill Hanson ..... Editor
Chuck Howard ..... Copy Editor

UT Austin EDI Server

The UT Austin Internet EDI Server opened for business in October 1995 and now serves over 120 institutions registered with the Server. The UT Austin Internet Server operates much like a Value Added Network (VAN) with users delivering transcripts to the server for processing and routing to the appropriate destination. The server will also support PGP encryption ensuring secure transmissions.

Institutions wanting to utilize the services, register directory information about themselves. Once this has been established, they are then able to trade with all other institutions who have registered.

This server is available to all educational institutions who have Internet access and agree to play by the "rules." For more information access the UT Austin Web page at: http://www.utexas.edu/student/giac/speede/

California School Information Services Project Moves Forward

Efforts to identify appropriate solutions for a California School Information Services (CSIS) system have recently been completed and requirements determined. As a result of those efforts, the California Department of Education (CDE) is requesting legislative funding to begin implementation across the state.

In California, as in many other states, the task of managing education information, particularly pupil information, is an increasing challenge. Using a combination of technology and EDI standards will enable California to implement a coordinated and efficient system to better serve students and schools.

Thus far, $10 million has been included in the Governor's Budget for CSIS for 1997-98. It is hoped that budget negotiations this spring will result in approval by the end of June.

SPEEDE ExPRESS

Electronic Migrant Student Records

Evaluation Software Publishing (ESP) is working with two states to send their migrant student records electronically. Georgia and Arizona both have ESP-SETM (Elementary Secondary Postsecondary—SPEEDE ExPRESS) software to perform translations into and out of their individual migrant student files.

In order to test the process, ESP exchanged sample records with National Computer Systems (NCS) in Iowa City. ESP had to define certain SPEEDE/ExPRESS elements for use with required migrant data elements. In addition, NCS had designated certain fields as required within their information system. Together, ESP and NCS have worked out these issues and will be making recommendations for future modifications to the standard.

SPEEDE/ExPRESS in Illinois

Northern Illinois University is making available a new Web site for SPEEDE/ExPress trading partners. They have included web versions of our local implementation guides for high schools and colleges, as well as links to other SPEEDE/ExPress sites. The address is http://www.reg.niu.edu/speede/

Further information can be obtained from Don Larson, Director of Registration and Records, Northern Illinois University, email: dlarson@niu.edu

New Guidelines For Protecting The Privacy Of Student Records Under Development

The Data Confidentiality Task Force of the National Forum on Education Statistics will soon release a set of guidelines for protecting the privacy of student records for state and location education agencies and schools.

This document contains a discussion of federal laws and regulations relating to student records. In addition, there are guidelines for developing policies and procedures needed by schools and agencies related to the collection, maintenance, and released of personally identifiable information about students and their families. Examples of sample forms and procedures are included.

The document is expected to be published and distributed by the National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education, in the spring of 1997.

New Committee Members for SPEEDE/ExPRESS

The National Center for Education Statistics has approved six new members for the SPEEDE/ExPRESS Committee membership. These individuals have extensive experience at working with student records at both the elementary and post-secondary levels. Focusing on the maintenance of Transaction Set 130 the Student Educational Record (Transcript) at the ANSI ASC X12 Committee Meetings, this working group will ensure that the data needs of education at large are met. The new members include: Sue Brennan, Florida Information Resource Network; Archie Cowan, North Carolina Department of Education; Robin Spears, Janesville Consolidated School District (Iowa); Steve Mills, WestEd; Pat Huffman, Edmonds Community College (Washington); and Mike Read, Austin Independent School District.

In order to provide expertise in the development of the personnel and institutional records, the SNAP team will be seeking twelve more individuals from elementary and post-secondary education to serve on the committee. This work is scheduled to begin next year. For more information, contact Elsa Leslie @ eleslie@sierrasys.com.

Louisiana EDI Implementation

Louisiana began discussing SPEEDE/ExPRESS at a 1992 annual LACRAO Conference. Their early efforts were toward SPEEDE implementation only in the three systems of higher education in Louisiana: the Louisiana State University System, Southern University System, and University of Louisiana System. All three systems report to the Louisiana Board of Regents.

The task force first met in March 1994 and examined implementation plans in Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, and Ohio. In an effort to implement a pilot program by 1995-96 school year, the committee surveyed all institutions of higher education in the state. Thirty institutions were surveyed with 21 responses, 13 of which planning to implement EDI in the 1995-96 school year. As reported by Robert Doolos, Chairman, LACRAO SPEEDE Task Force

The task force hosted a one-day workshop for software products at LSU campus in Baton Rouge in December 1994. The conference provided vendor information as well as EDI basics.

In 1995 the task force recommended a software vendor to LACRAO institutions. In April 1995, the task force identified institutions for pilot project participation and defined general communication measures for membership. By September 1995, eight institutions had purchased software. For more information contact Robert Doolos, LSU Registrar at: srr1001@lsu.edu

EDIowa: EDI in Education Conference in Iowa a Success!!

The State of Iowa put on quite a show for the EDI in Education Conference in Des Moines, last October 18-20. Serving as hosts to the annual AACRAO conference, the University of Iowa, Iowa State University, and the Iowa Department of Education demonstrated the work of EASIER (Electronic Access system for Iowa Education Records) Project. The success of the project gave inspiration to the nearly 250 conference attendees at various stages of implementing EDI.

Marion Hansen, University of Iowa and conference program chair, and the many presenters from the user community offered sessions that were informative and thought-provoking. Appealing to EDI newbies as well as to advanced users, the program included foundation sessions on this technology and existing applications in education, updates on implementation models, and emerging uses for student financial aid processes, testing results reporting, and administration of research grants.

Kathy Jones, Iowa State University, and several volunteers from her office carried out all the local arrangement activities large and small. Kathy made it all seem so easy despite her traveling the 35 miles between Ames and Des Moines numerous times and having taken on new responsibilities as Registrar.

The local arrangements committee assembled the conference notebook, known for its value as an EDI resource as well as a hefty muscle-builder. The 2 _-inch-thick notebook is full of notes, copies of slides, or descriptive text for each presentation. AACRAO is making copies available for $75 each. Please call Betsy Bainbridge, (202) 293-7383, to order yours.

The AACRAO SPEEDE Committee wishes to thank the many presenters who donated their time and expertise to spreading the word on EDI in education and to express their gratitude to Supply Tech, NCS, and Catalysts, Inc. for their sponsorship.

SPEEDE/ExPRESS Vendor Partnership Announced

Evaluation Software Publishing has entered into an agreement with McGraw Hill School Systems to provide a SPEEDE/ExPRESS translator for exchanges out of and into their new MHSS school management software. Users of MHSS will be able to access their student information directly for electronic exchanges and receive SPEEDE/ExPRESS compliant records for direct import into MHSS.

ESP's approach is to provide SPEEDE/ExPRESS users with an application that taps their local data source directly, builds the transaction sets desired for sending, reads transaction sets received and imports data directly into local files. Any local data source can be used. Those with ODBC capability will be the most efficient.

Information about ESP-SETM is available from ESP by calling (512) 458-8364, or e-mail: esp@evalsoft.com, and through the WWW at URL: http://www.evalsoft.com/esp

SPEEDE ExPRESS

Standardization of Postsecondary Education Electronic Data Exchange
Exchange of Permanent Records Electronically for Students and Schools

NCES 97-945

SPEEDE/ExPRESS NEWSLETTER

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